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Destitute of 65 years of age and over and destitutes of 60 years of age and over who are incapacitated to earn a living due to blindness, leprosy, insanity, paralysis or loss of limb, are eligible for the grant of pension under this scheme. Under the rules governing the scheme, a destitute is defined as a person without any income or source of income, and who has no relatives of 20 years of age and over of the following categories :—

(i) Son;

(ii) Son's son ; and

(iii) Husband/wife :

Provided that—

(i) a person will be deemed to be a destitute if all the relatives falling within the categories specified above are—

(*a*) themselves without any income or source of income, such a fact being proved to the satisfaction of the sanctioning authority ; and

(*b*) continuously missing and the sanctioning authority has satisfied himself by such enquiry as he deems necessary that the relatives are so missing ; and

(ii) a person will be deemed to be a destitute if the wife has attained the age of 55 years or over.

Where both the wife and the husband are destitutes according to the definition, each of them will be eligible for a pension if they have no other living relatives of the categories specified above.

Professional beggars and mendicants shall not be considered to be destitutes. But persons who are not actually beggars by profession but sometimes receive occasional assistance from some people shall be allowed pensions if they are otherwise eligible and the sanctioning authority satisfies himself that they are destitutes.

திரு. எம். சுப்பையா செட்டியார் : உண்மையாகப் பாதிக்கப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு இது கொடுக்கப்படாவிட்டால், அவர்கள் யாருக்கு அப்பீல் செய்து அதைப் பெறமுடியும் ?

கனம் திரு. எம். பக்தவத்சலம் : இது ரெவின்யூ இலாகாவில் கண்காணிக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. அதனால் அப்பீல் செய்வதென்றால் கலெக்டருக்கு அனுப்பவேண்டும்.

Grant to aided elementary schools

10-15 a.m. * 163 *Q.*—Sri M. RAJAH IYER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation has been received about the delay in the disbursement of grants to aided elementary schools in panchayat areas after the coming into force of the Panchayats Act, and

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(b) whether there is any proposal to revive the practice of direct disbursements of grants to such schools by the Department or Education ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir. A few representations were received.

(b) No, Sir.

SRI M. RAJAH IYER : In view of the fact that there is delay, will the Government revive the old practice of disbursing grants by educational authorities direct to aided elementary schools, till such time as sufficient funds are placed at the disposal of the Panchayat Unions?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It has been taken up under the provisions of the Act relating to Panchayat Unions. But any complaints received are looked into.

Over-bridge

*164 Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the answer to the Legislative Council Question No. 530, dated 31st January 1956—

(a) the names of places where construction of over-bridges at railway crossings have been recommended to the Central Government; and

(b) in what proportion the costs of construction of such over bridges at level-crossings is borne by the Central and the State Governments?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) The attention of the hon. Memebr is invited to the paper[a] placed on the table of the House and he is informed that in view of the limited funds available for road works, the question of revising the lists of schemes relating to the construction of over/under bridges is under consideration.

(b) According to the existing policy, the entire cost of construction of the over/under bridges and the sub-ways proper on National Highways within municipal limits and roads other than National Highways in towns and cities, i.e., the cost of structure falling within the Railway limits is to be borne by the Railway Board, if the construction of the bridge or sub-way is necessitated entirely due to increase of railway traffic. If however, the construction of the bridge or sub-way is necessitated by increase in road traffic, the cost has to be borne by the Road authority concerned, i.e., State Government or the local body as the case may be. In either case, the cost of construction of the approach roads beyond the railway limits has to be met by the Road authority in full. In regard to construction of over/under bridges in National Highways outside municipal limits, the entire cost has to be met by the Government of India.

[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 542–544